

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7314

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH FAHMY ON LYONS CASE

REF: CAIRO 12548

1. DURING MY MEETING THIS MORNING WITH FONMIN FAHMY, I RAISED WITH HIM PROBLEMS WE HAD HAD IN DEALING WITH EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ON LYONS ARREST CASE. FAHMY HAS RECEIVED MEMO ON MY CONVERSATION WITH MINSTATE RIAD (REFTEL) AND HAD READY OUR AIDE MEMOIRE. I REVIEWED FOR HIM SOME OF THE MORE BIZARRE ASPECTS OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIALDOM'S HANDLING OF LYONS AND TOLD HIM I WAS AFRAID THAT THERE MAY BE ADVERSE PUBLICITY ONCE LYONS LEAVES THE COUNTRY AND STARTS TALKING TO THE PRESS. I NOTED CONGRESSWOMEN FENWICK'S INTEREST IN THE CASE AND SAID SHE HAD BEEN INFORMED IN GENERAL TERMS OF WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING. I SAID THAT LYONS HAD FINALLY BEEN RELEASED AT 11:30 LAST NIGHT AFTER CONSULAR OFFICER HAD INFORMED POLICE COLONEL THAT I WAS PLANNING TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING. HOWEVER, WE HAD STILL BEEN UNABLE TO SECURE LYONS' PASSPORT, WHICH WAS PROPERTY OF USG.

2. FAHMY TOOK DOWN NAME OF EGYPTIAN POLICE COLONEL WHOSE ERRATIC BEHAVIOR HAS CAUSED US DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER TO FIND OUT WHAT THE TRUE FACTS WERE AND WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I DID NOT KNOW IT AT THE TIME OF

MEETING DESCRIBED ABOVE, CONSULAR OFFICE HAS BEEN UNABLE
TO GET LYON'S PASSPORT BACK AND HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT SHE
MUSTWAIT THROUGH BAIRAM HOLIDAYS UNTIL WEDNESDAY WHEN
PASSPORT WILL ALLEGEDLY BE RETURNED BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.
I AM HOPEFUL THAT MY INTERCESSION WITH FAHMY WILL RESULT
IN OUR OBTAINING PASSPORT ON WEDNESDAY SO THAT LYONS MAY
LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

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